YeshaYahu’s point here in chapter 1 is that “worship” without obedience leads to suffering and destruction and if we do not repent and do what YHWH defines as right, we will suffer the wrath of YHWH

**Isa 1:1**  The vision of Yeshayahu son of Amots, which he saw concerning Yehuḏah and Yerushalayim in the days of Uzziyahu, Yotham, Aḥaz, Ḥizqiyahu – sovereigns of Yehuḏah.

**Isa 1:2**  Hear, **O heavens, and listen, O earth**! For יהוה has spoken, “I have reared and brought up children, but **they have transgressed against Me**.

YHWH mentions the heavens and the earth because He called them as witnesses against Yisra’el.

**Deu 31:26**  “**Take this Book of the Torah**, and you shall place it beside the ark of the covenant of יהוה your Elohim, and **it shall be there as a witness against you,**

**Deu 31:27**  for I myself know your rebellion and your stiff neck. See, while I am still alive with you today, you have been rebellious against יהוה, then how much more after my death?

**Deu 31:28**  “Assemble unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, so that I **speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to witness against them.**

**Isa 1:3**  An ox knows its owner and a donkey its master’s crib – **Yisra’ěl does not know, My people have not understood.”**

**Isa 1:4**  Alas, **sinning nation, a people loaded with crookedness, a seed of evil-doers, sons acting corruptly! They have forsaken יהוה**, they have provoked the Set-apart One of Yisra’ěl, **they went backward**.

Verse 2 mentioned that YHWH had raised children who would not obey Him and then He states that Yisra’el does not know Him or understand (Him), associating disobedience with lack of understanding and relationship, and this should not surprise us because it is exactly what Mosheh said.

**Deu 4:5**  “See, I have taught you laws and right-rulings, as יהוה my Elohim commanded me, to do thus in the land which you go to possess.

**Deu 4:6**  “**And you shall guard and do them, for this is your wisdom and your understanding** before the eyes of the peoples who hear all these laws, and they shall say, ‘Only a wise and understanding people is this great nation!’

Furthermore, YHWH says that Yisra’el’s sin was evidence that they had forsaken Him, associating disobedience with a lack of belief or trust in Him.

**Deu 28:14**  “And do not turn aside from **any** of the Words which I am commanding you today, right or left, **to go after other mighty ones to serve them**.

Not only does YHWH associate disobedience with unbelief but considers it an act of idolatry.

**Isa 1:5**  Why should you be stricken anymore? You continue in **apostasy**! All **the head is sick**, and all **the heart faints**.

YHWH accuses us of continuing in apostasy (falling away – v.4 going backward), which refers to disobedience, and because of it our “head is sick”, meaning that our ability to think rationally is limited, and that our “heart faints”, meaning that we have a fear and doubt.

**Isa 1:6**  From the sole of the foot, to the head, there is no soundness in it – wounds and bruises and open sores; they have not been closed or bound up or soothed with ointment.

**Isa 1:7**  Your land is laid waste, your cities are burned with fire, strangers devour your land in your presence. And it is laid waste, as overthrown by strangers.

**Isa 1:8**  And the daughter of Tsiyon is left as a booth in a vineyard, as a hut in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

**Isa 1:9**  Unless יהוה of hosts had left to us a small remnant, we would have become like Seḏom, we would have been made like Amorah.

YHWH is now telling us that our troubles and suffering come because we refuse to submit to His Torah (instructions) and because of that there is no hope for us if He does not act on our behalf.

**Isa 1:10**  Hear the word of יהוה, you rulers of Seḏom; give ear to the Torah of our Elohim, you people of Amorah!

Here, YHWH is comparing the leaders of Yisra’el to the rulers of Sedom and the people of Yisra’el as the people of Amorah, and as a result of it the sacrifices they offer to Him are not accepted by Him because they are offered superficially and unrepentantly. This is the same thing the writer of Hebrews says.

**Heb 10:26**  For **if we sin purposely after we have received the knowledge of the truth**, there **no longer remains a slaughter offering for sins**,

**Heb 10:27**  but some fearsome anticipation of judgment, and a fierce fire which is about to consume the opponents.

**Heb 10:28**  Anyone who has disregarded the Torah of Mosheh dies without compassion on the witness of two or three witnesses.

**Heb 10:29**  **How much worse punishment do you think shall he deserve who has trampled the Son of Elohim underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was set apart as common, and insulted the Spirit of favour?**

**Heb 10:30**  For we know Him who has said, “Vengeance is Mine, I shall repay, says יהוה.” And again, **“יהוה shall judge His people.”**

If we willingly disregard the Torah once we have been freed from the condemnation of death we earned because we had violated the Torah, then we have made the sacrifice of Messiah of no effect in our lives and have “trampled” Him under our feet, counting the Blood that He shed for us as something common or of no real value, thus insulting the Spirit of Grace, which will bring upon us a worse punishment then we would have suffered if we had never known Him at all.

**2Pe 2:17**  These (false prophets – v.1) are fountains without water, clouds driven by a storm, to whom the blackest darkness is kept forever.

**2Pe 2:18**  For speaking arrogant nonsense, **they entice** – through the lusts of the flesh, through indecencies – **the ones who have indeed escaped from those living in delusion,**

**2Pe 2:19**  promising them freedom, though themselves being slaves of corruption – for one is a slave to whatever overcomes him.

**2Pe 2:20**  For if, after they (believers) have **escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Master and Saviour יהושע Messiah**, **they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the first.**

**2Pe 2:21**  **For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the set-apart command** delivered unto them.

**2Pe 2:22**  For them the proverb has proved true, “**A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “A washed sow returns to her rolling in the mud.”**

Kepha (Peter) is telling us clearly here the same thing as the writer of Hebrews and alluding to the same basic principles taught in YeshaYahu (Isaiah), that YHWH requires obedience from those who call themselves His people and if they don’t obey the Torah then not only will the not understand what YHWH has spoken to them but He will not consider them His people and their end will be destruction and the fierce fire.

Furthermore, we are told there are plenty of people out there claiming to be His servants and our Teachers who not only follow their own flesh instead of Him, but they are teaching us to do the very same things, and that they approve of us when we do so, even when they know that the penalty of such behavior is death.

**Rom 1:28**  And even as they (false teachers – v. 18) **did not think it worthwhile to possess the knowledge of Elohim**, Elohim gave them over **to a worthless mind**, to do what is improper,

**Rom 1:29**  having been **filled with all unrighteousness**, whoring, wickedness, greed, evil; filled with envy, murder, fighting, deceit, evil habits; whisperers,

**Rom 1:30**  slanderers, **haters of Elohim**, insolent, proud, boasters, devisers of evils, disobedient to parents,

**Rom 1:31**  **without discernment**, covenant breakers, unloving, unforgiving, ruthless;

**Rom 1:32**  who, **though they know the righteousness of Elohim, that those who practise such deserve death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practise them.**

These false teachers do “not think it worthwhile to possess the knowledge of Elohim”, because they are not ignorant to the fact that the Torah teaches that it is through obedience to the Torah that we gain “wisdom and understanding” (Deut 4:5-6; Ps 119:97-104) but they refuse to practice it and because of their choice to disregard His Torah, YHWH allows them to follow after their own worthless imaginations.

These false teachers, by their unrighteous behavior, prove that the hate Elohim and because of this behavior they are unable to discern even the simplest doctrinal truths. They know that YHWH said that such behavior leads to death and yet they both practice this way of death and teach us to do the same.

Paul (Sha’ul) clearly tells us that it is a submitted (circumcised) heart of obedience that proves our son-ship.

**Rom 2:23**  You (false [Jewish] teachers) who **make your boast in the Torah**, **through the transgression of the Torah do you disrespect Elohim?**

**Rom 2:24**  For “The Name of Elohim is blasphemed among the nations because of you,” as it has been written.

**Rom 2:25**  For circumcision indeed profits **if you practise the Torah**, but if you are a transgressor of the Torah, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

**Rom 2:26**  So, if an uncircumcised one watches over the righteousnesses of the Torah, shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned as circumcision?

**Rom 2:27**  And the uncircumcised by nature, **who perfects the Torah**, shall judge you who notwithstanding letter and circumcision are a transgressor of the Torah!

**Rom 2:28**  For he is not a Yehuḏi who is so outwardly, neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.

**Rom 2:29**  But a Yehuḏi is he who is so inwardly, and **circumcision is that of the heart**, in Spirit, not literally, whose praise is not from men but from Elohim.

\*\*\*

**Isa 1:11** “Of what use to Me are **your many slaughterings**?” declares יהוה. “I have had enough of ascending offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts. **I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats.**

**Isa 1:12**  “When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courtyards?

**Isa 1:13**  “Stop bringing **futile offerings**, incense, **it is an abomination to Me**. New moons, Sabbaths, the calling of gatherings – **I am unable to bear unrighteousness and assembly**.

Notice, YHWH calls these sacrifices, “your many slaughterings” and tells them that He does “not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats”, and then asks them “who has required this from your hand”?

Didn’t YHWH command the offering of these things in the Torah? Why then does He make such a statement?

First, we must consider the context here, which is living in sin and rebellion, and then we must consider the context in which the requirement of animal sacrifice was given along with what He says is better.

**1Sa 15:22**  Then Shemu’ěl said, “**Does יהוה delight in ascending offerings and slaughterings, as in obeying the voice of יהוה**? Look, **to obey is better than a slaughtering, to heed is better than the fat of rams**.

YHWH gave us the Torah at Mt. Sinai in Genesis 20 thru 24 and then confirmed it with blood. Nowhere in those chapters is a command to sacrifice an animal for sin, it was not until AFTER Yisra’el had sinned with the Golden Calf, which resulted in the breaking of the Stone Tablets, that YHWH gave us the instructions concerning priesthood and sacrifice.

Sacrifice was given to us as a response to disobedience so that we could get cleansing from the guilt of sin, but a sacrificial system was not a part of YHWH’s perfect will, which was evidenced in the Garden of Eden when there was no death until after Adam sinned by disobeying the command of YHWH and ate of the forbidden fruit. AFTER sin was committed, YHWH shed the blood of an animal to cover (atone for) the nakedness (sin) of man.

This is what YHWH is referring to here in v. 12, i.e. He did not require sacrifices from them, He required obedience, but they were bringing sacrifices to Him from a hard heart of disobedience and a life that proved they did not really know Him. So those sacrifices were not for Him, but for them, to make them feel better about themselves religiously.

**Col 2:20**  If then, you died with Messiah from the elementary matters of the world (idolatry) , why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to dogmas:

**Col 2:21**  “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle” –

**Col 2:22**  which are all to perish with use – **according to the commands and teachings of men**?

**Col 2:23**  These indeed have **an appearance of wisdom** in self-imposed worship, humiliation, and harsh treatment of the body – **of no value at all, only for satisfaction of the flesh.**

Paul here is saying the same basic thing to those in Colossi that is being said in YeshaYahu, i.e. that the man-made “religious” dogmas that we subject ourselves to, which have not value in true service to YHWH, are done, NOT to please Him, but to make us feel better about ourselves.

YHWH tells Yisra’el in YeshaYahu 1 that He does not see that kind of service to Him as valid, it is not worship of Him but worship of our own way of thought and feeling. Adam did this when he tried to cover his own nakedness with leaves instead of going before YHWH in repentance. Qayin was guilty of this when he offered the fruit of his fields instead of blood, which is required. Abraham was guilty of this when he attempted to fulfill YHWH’s promise of a son through the maid Hagar, etc., etc., etc.

We think and/or feel that if we worship Him with our heart, regardless of the form that worship takes, that He will receive us and that is just not true. Our worship MUST conform to the standard of righteousness and set-apartness that He requires, no matter how we feel or what we think about it.

He alone is Master, and we are His servants, He declares, and we obey, period! Furthermore…

**1Sa 15:23** “For **rebellion is as the sin of divination**, and **stubbornness is as wickedness and idolatry**. Because you have rejected the word of יהוה, He also does reject you as sovereign.”

…He defines rebellion (willful disobedience) as divination or witchcraft and stubbornness is the same thing too Him as wickedness and idolatry, and this attitude is a rejection of His Word, which ultimately results in His rejection of us.

**Isa 1:14**  “My being hates your New moons and your appointed times, they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.

**Isa 1:15**  “And when you spread out your hands, I hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I do not hear. Your hands have become filled with blood.

YHWH goes on, saying that when sinful Yisra’el observe the New Moons or Feasts or Sabbaths or any other parts of the Torah, that some might consider more ‘religious’ or ‘ceremonial’, it means nothing to Him because they are mixing an unrighteous life with set-apart things, which He abhors. This is the same thing Ya’aqob (James) says about ‘faith and works’ in James 2:14-25.

So, this first section was all about explaining to Yisra’el that without a Torah obedient life, the ‘rituals’ of Torah mean nothing, which is the Two-Part Principle. Without works (Torah – Physical part), belief (worship – Spiritual part) has no value to Him or for us.

He is now going to say this again as an explanation of how we ‘get right’ with Him again.

**Isa 1:16**  “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Stop doing evil!

**Isa 1:17**  “Learn to do good! Seek right-ruling, reprove the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

This simply tells us to ‘repent’, i.e. stop disobeying His Torah and start obeying it.

**Isa 1:18**  "Come now, and let us reason together,” says יהוה. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

**Isa 1:19**  “If you submit and obey, you shall eat the good of the land;

**Isa 1:20**  but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword,” for the mouth of יהוה has spoken.

1. V. 18, is a promise of Messiah (belief/spiritual)

2. V. 19, is a command to obey the Torah (works/physical),

a. which if fulfilled in this way, i.e. belief followed by works, results in the inheritance of the Land/Kingdom.

3. V. 20, unfortunately, tells us the consequences of NOT fulfilling this pattern, i.e. the sword.

**Isa 1:21**  How the steadfast city has become a whore! I have filled it with right-ruling; righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers.

**Isa 1:22**  Your silver has become dross; your wine is mixed with water.

**Isa 1:23**  Your rulers are stubborn, and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes and runs after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, nor does the cause of the widow reach them.

This is another accusation against Yisra’el/Yerushalayim, that they have went whoring after another elohim, contextually it is a reference to creating an elohim for themselves and calling it YHWH, which is the modern ‘golden calf’ of both Judaism (Talmudism) and Christianity (Grace only) and it is all because of stubbornness and disobedience.

**Isa 1:24**  Therefore the Master declares, יהוה of hosts, the Mighty One of Yisra’ěl, “Ah, I shall be eased of My adversaries, and I shall be avenged of My enemies.

**Isa 1:25**  “And I shall turn My hand against you, and shall refine your dross as with lye, and shall remove all your alloy.

**Isa 1:26**  “And I shall give back your judges as at the first, and your counsellors as at the beginning. After this you shall be called the city of righteousness, a steadfast city.”

**Isa 1:27**  Tsiyon shall be ransomed with right-ruling, and her returning ones with righteousness.

YHWH is warning them of His coming wrath that will purge them and purify them so that at the end, they will once again be a righteous and steadfast city.

**Isa 1:28**  And the destruction of transgressors and of sinners is together, and those who forsake יהוה shall be consumed.

**Isa 1:29**  For they shall be ashamed of the terebinth trees which you have desired. And you shall be embarrassed because of the gardens which you have chosen.

**Isa 1:30**  For you shall be as a terebinth whose leaf fades, and as a garden that has no water.

**Isa 1:31**  The strong shall be for tow, and his work for a spark. And both shall burn together, with no one to extinguish.

This chapter concludes with YHWH prophesying about what will happen to the ‘transgressors and sinners’ who have forsaken Him, they will be consumed. It is important the understand that He is talking to HIS PEOPLE, i.e. Yisra’el and that this applies to ALL people who are called by His Name, both native born and stranger (Lev 19:33-34, Num 15:15-16).

The word ‘tow’ mean kindling, like the little twigs we gather up to start a fire with. Here He is referring to the ‘strong’, i.e. leaders, whose bodies will be the kindling with which He will set to blaze the fires of Judgment and it is the works of these men, that will be the spark that ignites it all.

Their lack of work (physical) will prove their lack of belief (spiritual) and both will burn, and there will be no one to help them then!